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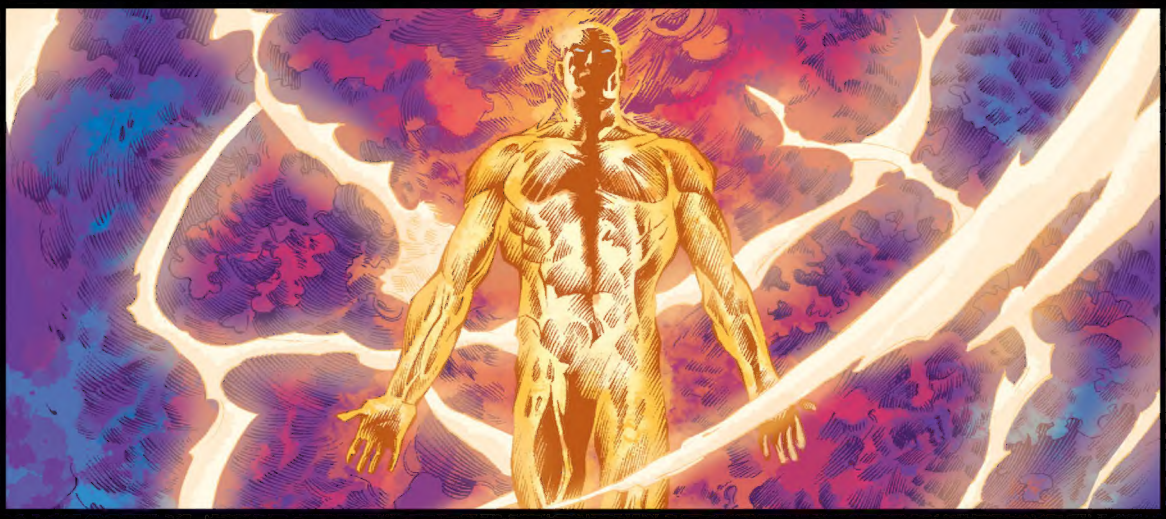
And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE NEW AVENGERS

THE COLLECTIVE

PART TWO



Months ago, a devastating confrontation paired the X-Men and the New Avengers against the reality-altering powers of mutant and one-time Avenger Wanda Maximoff, the Scarlet Witch. Afterwards, most of the mutants on earth woke up to find themselves human--without their mutant gene. Only a few hundred mutants remain on earth, when once there were millions. The truth about what happened and the Scarlet Witch's involvement remains a secret to the general public in order to keep the remaining mutants safe from a growing anti-mutant hysteria.

Today, a mysterious energy force has hit the planet Earth and has taken the small town of North Pole, Alaska with it. Coming out of the wreckage, a figure of unspeakable power makes its way to the shores of Cleveland after obliterating Alpha Flight, Canada's premiere super-team. S.H.I.E.L.D. has no choice but to call in Earth's mightiest heroes.

The Avengers decide to divide into two teams--one to deal with the challenge of discovering the exact nature of the threat and one to take on the physical confrontation. During the battle with the supremely powerful being, sometime Avenger Ms. Marvel is shocked to find that her lost cosmic powers have seemingly returned.

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HI.
WHATCHYA READING?

OH MY-- OH MAN, THE GROUND IS SHAKING! DO YOU FEEL THAT?

RUN!
RUN, IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE!
ALIEN AGENDA

ISN'T THAT ABUSING YOUR POWERS, AGENT JOHNSON?
ALIEN AGENDA

NO.
I'M S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT SHARON CARTER.
YOU NEED TO COME BACK IN, DAISY.
S.H.I.E.L.D. WANTS ME BACK ALL OF A SUDDEN? TOUGH NOOGIES.
CAPTAIN AMERICA NEEDS YOU.

AVENGERS TOWER, MANHATTAN
THAT'S HOW THE KREE-SKRULL WAR ENDED?
YES, SIRS...
RICK JONES ENDED THE KREE-SKRULL WAR? AND HE DID IT WITHOUT POWERS?
DO REMEMBER, YOUNG WICCAN, MASTER JONES WAS TRAINED BY CAPTAIN AMERICA HIMSELF.
ONE OF THE VERY FEW. HE'S A SPECIAL YOUNG MAN.
SO REALLY, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, HE WAS THE FIRST YOUNG AVENGER.
YES. I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THAT.
I GOTTA MEET HIM. CAN WE MEET HIM?
I'VE MET HIM
YOU LOVE SAYING THAT.
I DO.
YOUR DAD WAS AN AVENGER. YOU'VE MET EVERYONE.
I HAVE.
YIKES!
VISION, WE NEED YOU.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND WE NEED THE VISION AND HIS INTERNAL HARD DRIVE FILES.
WHAT DO YOU WANT THE YOUNG AVENGERS TO DO?
NOTHING!
THIS IS TOO DANGEROUS. IF YOU COME NEAR THIS, WE'LL HAVE YOU ARRESTED AND CALL YOUR PARENTS.
I'M NOT JOKING AROUND.
VISION?
ON MY WAY.

CLEVELAND

AVENGERS, CHANGE OF PLANS!

ALL OF YOU GET OUT OF HERE!

AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, IRON MAN?

I DON'T EXACTLY KNOW, CAP.

WE'VE NEVER FACED ANYTHING AS UNDEFINABLE AS THIS BEFORE.

BUT I'D RATHER YOU GUYS WERE AROUND TO TELL PEOPLE NICE STORIES ABOUT ME AFTER I'M GONE THAN, YOU KNOW, NOT.

SO NOW IT'S GROWING TO JAPANESE MONSTER-MOVIE SIZE? WONDERFUL.

LET'S STICK TO THE PLAN. WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN ON THE GROUND.

SPIDER-WOMAN WILL GET SPIDER-MAN TO THE S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER AND START WORKING ON A WAY TO STOP THIS.

NOTE TO SELF: LEARN HOW TO FLY THIS QUINJET.

IT'S NOT THAT MUCH HARDER THAN FLYING A HELICOPTER.

I DON'T HAVE A LICENSE.

FOR A HELICOPTER? YOU JUST NEED--

FOR A CAR.

HOW CAN THAT BE?

I HAD WEBS AT FIFTEEN. AND THEN... OTHER THINGS STARTED TAKING UP MY TIME.

YOU KNOW...LIKE *THIS.*

WHAT ABOUT CAROL? THAT THING TOOK HER OUT FAST AND SHE'S PRETTY UP THERE IN THE POWERS DEPARTMENT.

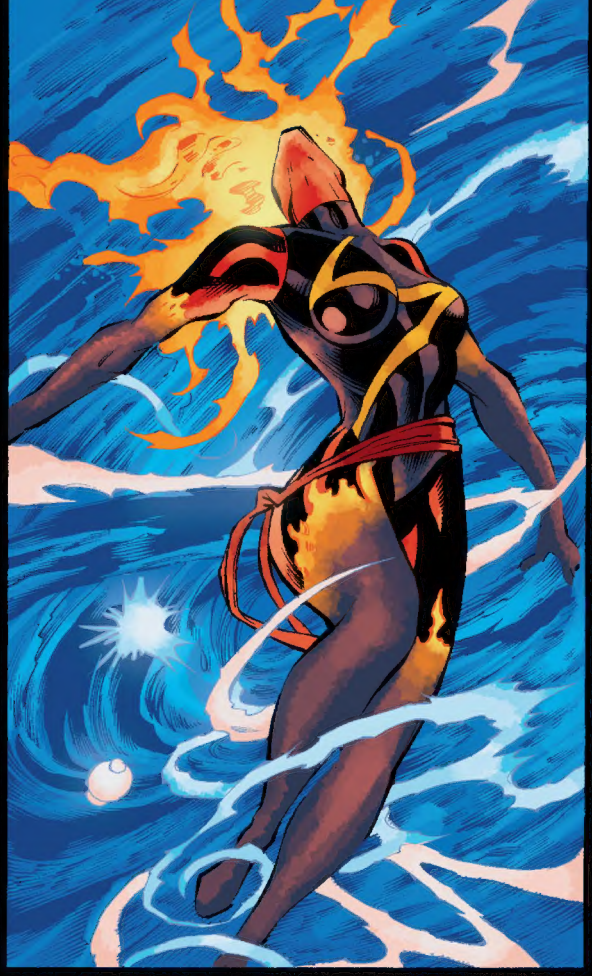
LET'S HOPE FOR THE BEST.

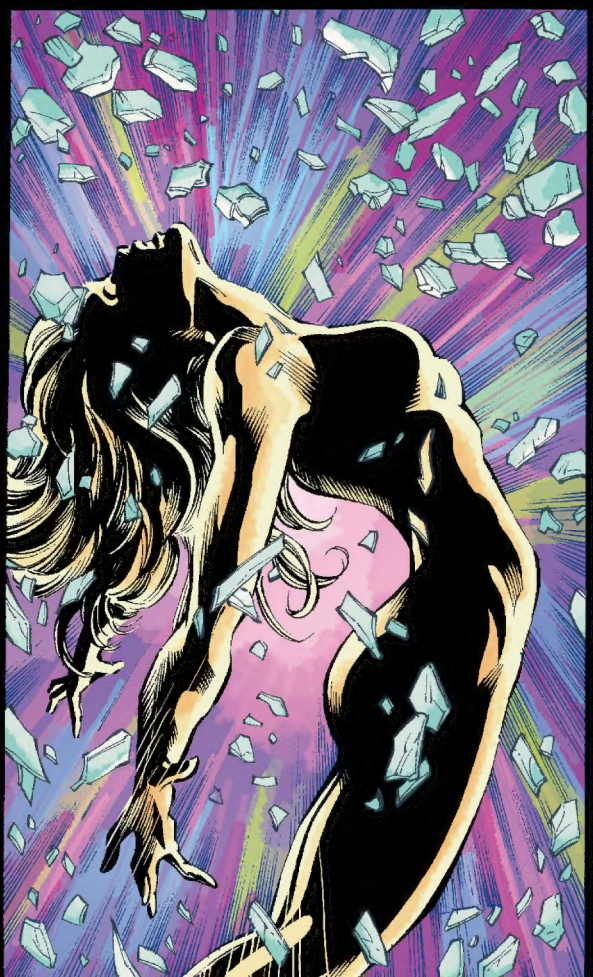
GUYS, MY ARMOR IS READING SOME REALLY IMPOSSIBLE ENERGY FLUCTUATIONS.

I'M SENDING S.H.I.E.L.D. WHAT I HAVE AND-- UH-OH

GUYS!

THOUGHT WE AGREED YOU FLY BETTER *WITH* THE ARMOR, TONY.
YEAH, HOW 'BOUT THAT?
CAROL?
WHAT'S *HAPPENED* TO YOU?
GOT A FEELING THAT'S TOMORROW'S THING.
ALL I KNOW IS I USED TO HAVE COSMIC-LEVEL POWERS WAY BACK IN THE DAY, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, ONE TUSSLE WITH THIS GUY AND I HAVE THEM AGAIN.
LET'S SEE WHAT I GET IF I TUSSLE WITH HIM AGAIN!
AGH!
YEAH, WELL, YOU *STARTED* IT.
ANY TIME YOU WANT TO SIT DOWN AND TALK, YOU JUST LET *MERRGGHHJ!!*
DON'T--



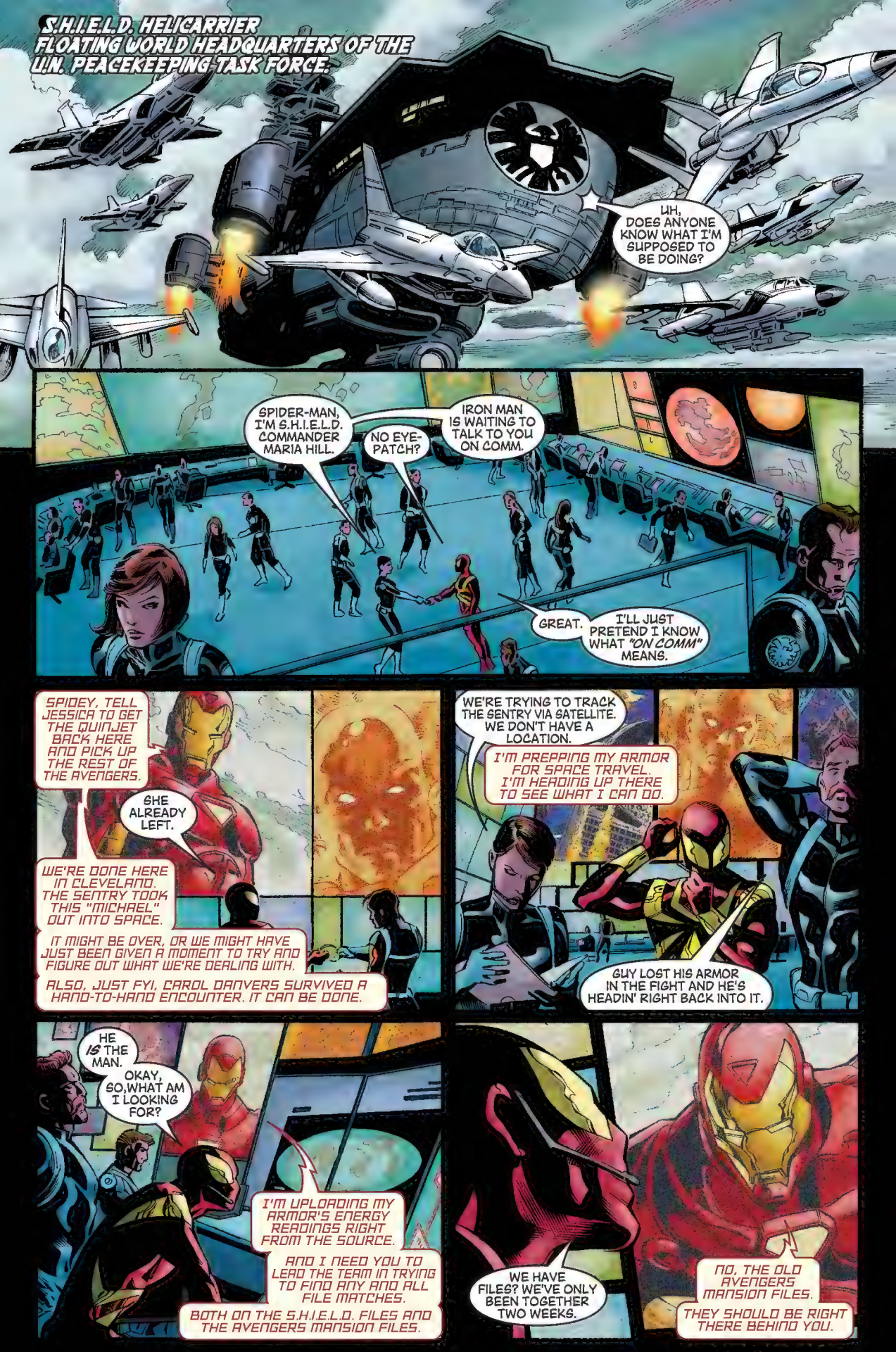


YYEEAAGHH!
OH MY GOD...
AAGHH!

BOOM
THE HELL WAS THAT NOW?
BOB.
THE SENTRY

OOF!
ARGH...
CAROL, WHAT HAPPENED?
I CAN'T--
I COULDN'T--
I COULDN'T DO IT.
CAROL, DID HE SAY ANYTHING? DID HE COMMUNICATE TO YOU?
HE? IT'S NOT A HE. IT'S--
IT WAS LIKE--
IT WAS LIKE GETTING THE $%#@ KICKED OUT OF YOU BY FIFTY AT ONCE.
FIFTY WHAT?
IT'S NOT--IT'S NOT-- IT'S NOT--
COME ON, GIRL.
COME ON. GET IT TOGETHER. FOCUS.
REMEMBER WHAT XAVIER TAUGHT YOU WHEN YOU USED TO HANG OUT AT THE MANSION. REMEMBER?
LOOK FOR IT. FEEL THE WORLD. FOCUS.
OPEN YOUR EYES AND LOOK. FOCUS.
I GOT IT. I'M OKAY.
WH-WHERE AM I?
CLEVELAND.
WHAT?
ROCK-AND-ROLL HALL OF FAME--RIGHT THERE.
BONO'S UNDERPANTS ARE IN THERE.
SHE'S OKAY.
CAROL. WHAT DID YOU SAY? WHAT HAPPENED?

I SWEAR TO GOD, IT WAS LIKE FIFTY DIFFERENT SUPER POWERS WERE FIGHTING TO GET TO ME.
FIRST ICE, THEN FORCE FIELDS, THEN--
MAGNETISM.
IT LITERALLY FELT LIKE-LIKE WHEN YOU HAVE A BUNCH OF BADDIES TRYING TO TAKE YOU ON ALL AT ONCE, AND THEY'RE ALL GETTING IN EACH OTHER'S WAY.
I REALLY THOUGHT I'D BOUGHT IT THAT TIME.
AND WHAT WAS THAT WITH HIM UNLOCKING MY OLD BINARY POWERS? WHAT WAS THAT?
IS THAT WHAT THAT WAS?
NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE IT.
ARMOR OVERRIDE. STEVE ROGERS. CODE. 34-44-54-64.
ARMOR SERVER ONLINE
ARMOR ORDER: ASSEMBLE.
WHOA.
ASSEMBLING
ONE MOMENT PLEASE
ARMOR, LOCATE TONY STARK.
LOCATED
TAKE ME TO HIM.
WHERE D'YA THINK THE SENTRY TOOK THAT THING?
NOT FAR AWAY ENOUGH.


S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER
FLOATING WORLD HEADQUARTERS OF THE U.N. PEACEKEEPING TASK FORCE.
UH, DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO BE DOING?
SPIDER-MAN, I'M S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMANDER MARIA HILL.
NO EYE-PATCH?
IRON MAN IS WAITING TO TALK TO YOU ON COMM.
GREAT.
I'LL JUST PRETEND I KNOW WHAT "ON COMM" MEANS.
SPIDEY, TELL JESSICA TO GET THE QUINJET BACK HERE AND PICK UP THE REST OF THE AVENGERS.
SHE ALREADY LEFT.
WE'RE DONE HERE IN CLEVELAND. THE SENTRY TOOK THIS "MICHAEL" OUT INTO SPACE.
IT MIGHT BE OVER, OR WE MIGHT HAVE JUST BEEN GIVEN A MOMENT TO TRY AND FIGURE OUT WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.
ALSO, JUST FYI, CAROL DANVERS SURVIVED A HAND-TO-HAND ENCOUNTER. IT CAN BE DONE.
WE'RE TRYING TO TRACK THE SENTRY VIA SATELLITE. WE DON'T HAVE A LOCATION.
I'M PREPPING MY ARMOR FOR SPACE TRAVEL. I'M HEADING UP THERE TO SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
GUY LOST HIS ARMOR IN THE FIGHT AND HE'S HEADIN' RIGHT BACK INTO IT.
HE IS THE MAN.
OKAY, SO, WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?
I'M UPLOADING MY ARMOR'S ENERGY READINGS RIGHT FROM THE SOURCE.
AND I NEED YOU TO LEAD THE TEAM IN TRYING TO FIND ANY AND ALL FILE MATCHES.
BOTH ON THE S.H.I.E.L.D. FILES AND THE AVENGERS MANSION FILES.
WE HAVE FILES? WE'VE ONLY BEEN TOGETHER TWO WEEKS.
NO, THE OLD AVENGERS MANSION FILES.
THEY SHOULD BE RIGHT THERE BEHIND YOU.

BEHIND--? OH!
UH. HEY.
SPIDER-MAN.
ALLOW ME TO HELP PROCESS THE FILES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
MY HARDWARE HOLDS ALL AVENGERS SOFTWARE, FILES AND FAIL-SAFE PROGRAMS.
INCLUDING ANY AND ALL RESEARCH AND FINDINGS DONE OVER THE YEARS.
YEAH? I HAD A SPIDER-MOBILE ONCE.
AREN'T YOUR WEB-SPINNING DEVICES MORE EFFECTIVE FOR TRAVEL?
AND I DON'T HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE.
THERE, I AM HOOKED INTO THE MAINFRAME.
YOU REQUESTED THE ALASKA FOOTAGE.
THIS IS THE BEST WE HAVE. IT BROADCAST OFF AN OUTDOOR BANK SECURITY CAMERA SERVER.
HERE GOES. IT AIN'T FUN.
JEEZ...
THERE.
THAT'S HIM.
POINT OF IMPACT WAS A UNITED STATES POST OFFICE.
WE HAVE A LIST OF MEN NAMED MICHAEL IN THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA.
ANY OF THEM A MAIL-MAN?
HOLD ON, I'M--UH, YES.
SERIOUSLY?
HE'S A POSTAL EMPLOYEE.
MICHAEL POINTER.
YEAH. HERE.
HERE'S HIS GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE ID PHOTO. MICHAEL POINTER.
YOU SEE THIS, IRON MAN?
THAT COULD BE HIM.
I THINK IT *IS.*
I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING THIS MAN HAS EVER SAID OR DONE SINCE BIRTH!!
AND I WANT IT *NOW!*
HE IS NOT IN THE AVENGERS FILES.
BUT I AM MATCH-READING THE ENERGY SIGNATURES YOU'VE UPLOADED TO US.
A FEW OF THE CLEARER READINGS MATCH POWER SOURCES FROM THE AVENGERS AND S.H.I.E.L.D. FILES.
POWER *SOURCES?*
SHOW US THE MATCHES.

Abyss
Angel Dust
Armena Ortega
Artie
Beak
Black Tom
Blind Faith
Blob

Boost
Bora
Brass
Chamber
Conquistador
Danielle Moonstar
El Aguila
Fatale

El Aguila
Fatale
Flambe
Freakshow
Gloom
Hack
Hanna Levy
Harpoon

Murmur
Nightwind
Overrider
Paul Patterson
Phantazia
Polaris
Postman
Preview
Prodigy
Quicksilver
Radian
Radius

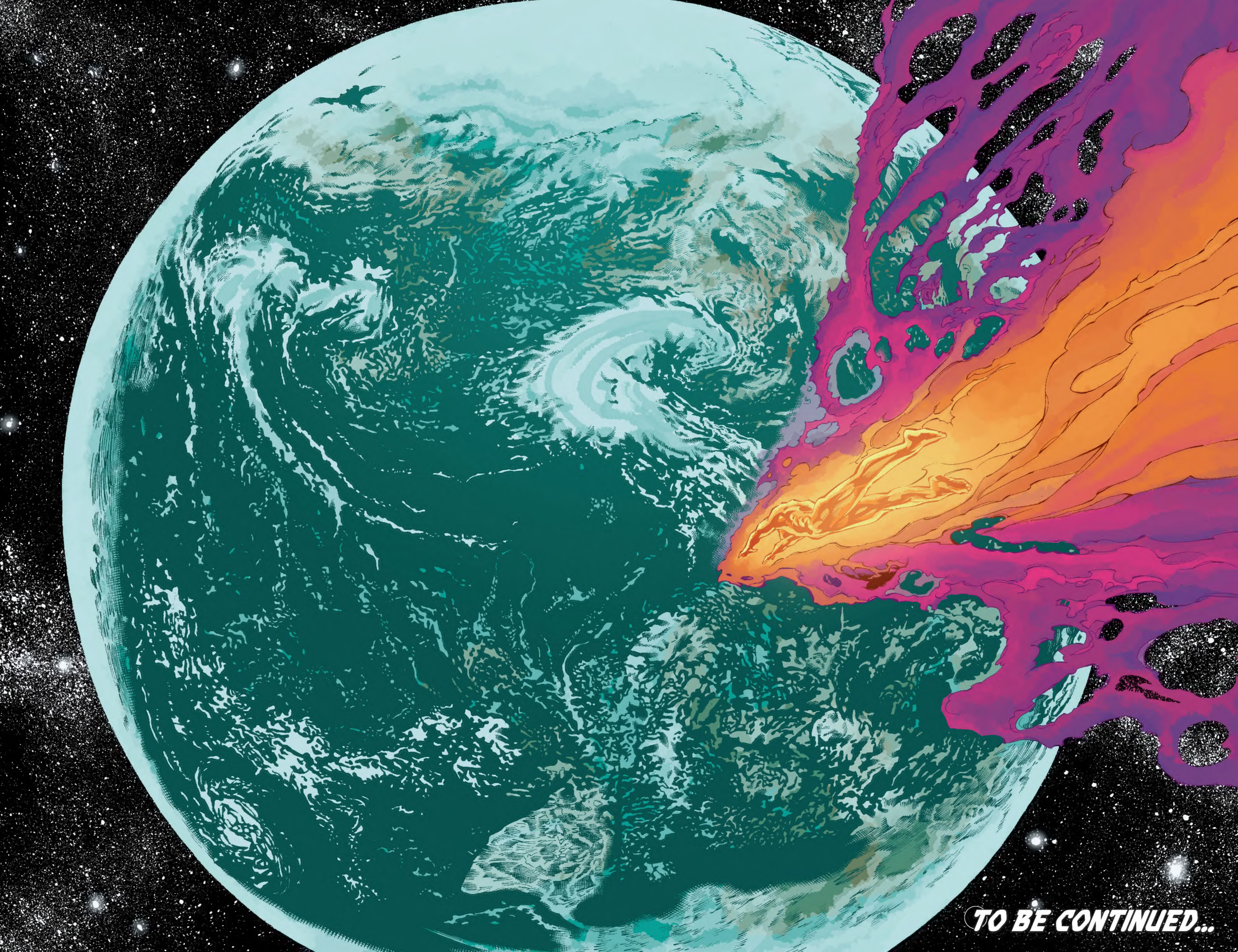
Phantazia
Polaris
Postman
Preview
Prodigy
Quicksilver
Radian
Radius
Reaper
Redneck
Rictor
Scanner

Abyss
Angel Dust
Armena Ortega
Artie
Beak
Black Tom
Blind Faith
Blob
Boost
Bora
Brass
Chamber

Kiwi Black
Lara the Illusionist
Lightning Rod
Forearm
Longneck
Magneto
Mary Zero
Agent Zero
Aero
Mesmero
Mist Mistress
Monsoon

OH NO... I KNOW WHAT HE IS.

WHAT? WHAT IS IT?


TO BE CONTINUED...

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

Yo yo yo! Bendis here for another New Avengers news page update thingy.

I know I vaguely promised a Steve McNiven interview here last month, but I'm going to bump that 'til next time so we can talk about something that has completely changed comics. Something that has not only changed the way we make them, but also the reader's relationship to the creators behind the books and to each other.

Yes, I am talking about the *internet*.

"Wow, *really?* The internet has changed the world? No #$%$, you bald genius!"

But hold on. The reason I am writing this is because during every comic convention panel I have attended, someone has asked the following: "Why don't you guys do those little yellow editor's notes at the bottom of the panels like they used to in the old days?"

Mighty Joe Quesada always says it's because the language of comics has changed and that no one did it as awesomely as Stan Lee did. It's breaking the fourth wall and it can be quite distracting to the story if not done right. And that is true.

But I think there's something else.

I think it's because of the internet. I think it's because comics readers who have a question can go to any number of comics boards, post their question and get fifteen answers in two seconds. How amazing is it that any comics fan in the world can do this? They can meet other comic fans any time and talk about any kind of comic.

Back when I was a kid--you know, in the late eighties (just go with me)--we didn't have this. Mostly, you were alone in your peer group as the guy who read comics. And your only real connection to the world-wide comic community was he letter columns in the issues and sometimes in the old Comic Buyer's Guide.

Having spoken with many of my comics heroes from the generation before mine, I've learned that they had no idea if they were popular or influential or if anyone was even *reading* their comics. They'd get one or two letters and had no interaction with readers beyond that and a convention appearance here or there.

But my generation of comics creators, we get almost *instant* feedback. Kill Hawkeye? I hear about it! Kill Alpha Flight? Oh, I hear about it! There are now dedicated forums and groups for any and all comic book series and creators. So many opportunities for discussion that you could easily take them for granted.

Anything you could possibly think of is being discussed, almost to an insane degree. And you know what? I *love* it. I love the accountability.

But I heard that something approaching 85% of you don't even *do* comic book internet stuff. Maybe you don't know where to go. I think anyone who reads this comic would love these sites:

It's amazing what Mark Millar has accomplished with http://www.millarworld.biz. Millarworld is a lot like my site Jinxworld, but everyone pretends to be British and Scottish and talks about "drink-ups."

Very inspiring is Warren Ellis' The Engine at http://www.the-engine.net/forum/, which he opens with "My name's Warren Ellis, and this place was my bloody stupid idea: a community based around my adult-oriented original creator-owned works, and a place to have publicconversations with other creators."

For Marvel fans, I also recommend the Marvel board at Newsarama. Matt Brady recently split the comics boards so there are separate ones for DC and Marvel, and since then, I have seen the level of critique and conversation rise dramatically. It's also a killer place to get your comics news. On top of all that, Joe Quesada, Paul Jenkins and JMS have weekly columns there.

Word is that Warren Ellis and Brian K. Vaughn have myspace accounts.

For Avengers fans, you just can't do better than http://www.avengersforever.net, and of course there is http://www.marvel.com, and I just got hipped to http://www.avengersdisassembled.com.

And lastly, there is my site http://www.jinxworld.com. (Wait…was this all an elaborate plug for his own site?) Jinxworld has had many incarnations, but the most recent one is something I am very proud of. We have invited many comic creators of many different schools of thought and style and given them their own boards.

Right now we host boards run by Michael Avon Oeming, David Mack, Marc Andreyko, David Finch, Alex Maleev, Gabriele Dell'Otto, Adi Granov, Michael Lark, Steve McNiven, Allen Heinberg and Dan Slott. By the time you read this there might even be some more. And it's free!

And while we're at it let's talk about podcasts. I just recently joined the world of podcasts by turning my monstrous Q 'n' A message-board thread into a podcast hosted by the amazing Wordballoon.com (which is an amazing comics creator interview show), but the world is a better place because of Fanboyradio and Comics Geek Speak. And we Marvel boys are slowly leaking material from our last editorial retreat under Marvel's own podcast banner, all of which are available on iTunes and all those other places through which you subscribe to podcasts.

So, there you go: the future of comics, right at your fingertips! Next month I'm going to tell you about the magic of something called the automobile.

See you online!

ON SALE APRIL 2006

ANNIHILATION: NOVA #1: With the Nova Corps devastated by the Annihilation Wave, Nova is the last man standing!

ANNIHILATION: RONAN #1: After being convicted of treason, Ronan escapes to clear his name!

ANNIHILATION: SILVER SURFER #1: The Silver Surfer is hunted by a new and powerful enemy!

ANNIHILATION: SUPER-SKRULL #1: Skrull planets are being destroyed and it's up to the Super-Skrull to stop the unstoppable!

BOOKS OF DOOM #6: It is Doom's time to take vengeance on those who have slighted him.

CAPTAIN AMERICA #17: It's Crossbones and Sin vs. A.I.M., but none of them counted on Cap and Sharon Carter!

FANTASTIC FOUR #537: Doctor Doom returns from Hell…but why?

FANTASTIC FOUR: FIRST FAMILY #2: The secret of the FF's first adversary! (Hint: it wasn't Mole Man!)

IRON MAN #7: Who is the mysterious armored killer working his way down a list of targets?

IRON MAN: THE INEVITABLE #5: Tony Stark's double life leaves him vulnerable to the Spymaster's plans for revenge!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #19: Wolverine! Cable! Slap Bracelets! It's everything you loved about the year 1991 in one comic!

MS. MARVEL #2: The Brood invasion begins!

NEW AVENGERS #18: The Sentry vs. Michael, the Collective!

NEW AVENGERS ANNUAL #1: The wedding of Luke Cage and Jessica Jones!

SENTRY #8: The Sentry faces the Void in a final showdown!

SHE-HULK #7: As the case against Starfox comes to a close, romantic entanglements come to a head.

SON OF M #5: One word: Magneto!

SPIDER-GIRL #97: Hobgoblin is coming out of retirement, and he has his sights on Spider-Girl!

SPIDER-WOMAN: ORIGIN #5: Spider-Woman faces the ghosts of her past and takes on Hydra with everything she has.

THE THING #6: The Thing and Spider-Man together!

THUNDERBOLTS #101: Zemo and Songbird--together?

X-FACTOR #6: Layla Miller's secrets revealed!

X-MEN: THE END - MEN AND X-MEN #4: A villain revealed and a fateful family reunion!

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